



## Mildred M. Gerdes Bliefertich

July 5, 1927 - January 29, 2019

Mildred M. Gerdes Bliefertich  
Kearney Resident

Mildred M. Gerdes Bliefertich, 91, of Kearney passed away on Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at Kearney Regional Medical Center. Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 5, 2019 at First Lutheran Church in Kearney. Pastors Rick and Michelle Carlson will officiate. Interment will follow the service at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Monday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Memorials are suggested to Camp Carol Joy Holling. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Mildred Marie Gerdes Bliefertich was born on July 5, 1927 near Byron, Nebraska, to Louis and Meta (Bohling) Heitmann. Mildred received her college education at Peru (NE) State College, Fairbury Jr. College, and Kearney State College.

On May 4, 1947 Mildred was united in marriage to Mervin Gerdes, and to this union four children were born. The couple farmed near Hardy, Nebraska before establishing their own farm near Deshler, Nebraska.

Mildred began teaching at Peace Lutheran Parochial School in Deshler, and

spent some years teaching grades 5-6 there. Then she taught at Davenport (NE) Community Schools, teaching grades 1-2 there for 22 years. She touched the lives of countless people through her many years of teaching. Teaching was more than her profession...it was truly her calling.

In 1997, Mildred and Mervin moved to Kearney to be closer to their children and families, due to Mervin's declining health. Mildred continued her teaching career by substitute teaching for Kearney Public Schools.

In 2001, Mervin died from complications of Alzheimer's Disease. On October 26, 2002 Mildred married Bernie Bliefenich at First Lutheran Church in Kearney. She and Bernie were blessed to have 16 wonderful years together. Mildred was a loving and devoted, talented and resourceful wife and mother, whose strong positive attitude did not waiver. She was a wonderful homemaker with a tremendous work ethic. She met life's challenges head-on and relied on her strong faith in God to get her through the tough spots.

Mildred adored children and loved her family fiercely.

Celebrating her life and cherishing her memory are her husband, Bernie; her children, Lanny (Cheryl) Gerdes, Sharon (Steve) Stelling, Terry (Jane) Gerdes, all of Kearney, and Lynnette Brockley of Fullerton, Nebraska; grandchildren, Jeff (Kandi) Stelling, Christopher (Dana) Stelling, Angela (Brandon) Benitz, Jason (Leslie) Gerdes, John (Wendy) Gerdes, Jeremy Gerdes, Sara (Brandon) King, Abby (Matthew) Richardson, Rebecca (Keith) Becker, Hannah (Luke) Minturn, Josh (Marie) Johnson, Jake Johnson, Bethany Gerdes, and Maria Gerdes; and 23 great-grandchildren. Mildred is also survived by her sisters, Loretta Schardt and Marge Vinkenberg; her brother, Lavern (Verla) Heitmann; and sisters-in-law, Delores Heitmann and Pearle Gerdes.

Mildred was preceded in death by her first husband, Mervin; her brother, Willis Heitmann; brothers-in-law, Egbert Schardt, Virgil Vinkenberg, Leonard Gerdes, Norman Gerdes, and Walter Michel; and sisters-in-law, Mildred Gerdes and Genevieve Michel.



# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
info@osrfh.com  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

## Funeral Service

FEB 5. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church  
3315 Ave G  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mildred M. Gerdes Bliefernich*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Sincere sympathy to Bernie and all of Mildred's family. She will be missed by all who knew her, but especially by those of us who enjoyed being her neighbor and friend. We will miss her at our monthly Neighborhood Suppers and other neighborhood events. While she left a huge gap, we have our memories to sustain us.*

*May God grant you peace as you cope with your loss. Sincere condolences from Beth and Neil Jochen*

**Beth Jochen** - February 12, 2019 at 06:34 PM



“ *john and Deloris Dahl purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mildred M. Gerdes Bliefernich.*



**john and Deloris Dahl** - February 04, 2019 at 11:07 AM



“ *Dear Bernie,  
I was saddened, indeed, to learn of your loss. I am out of town or would have come to visit you during this time of grief. I look forward to seeing you when we get back to Nebraska.*

*Joe & Virginia Meuret*

**Joe Meuret** - February 02, 2019 at 07:08 PM

MC

“ *An amazing woman, wonderful teacher and a positive role model for all of us. Our children were fortunate to have her as a teacher in Davenport.  
May her family members be blessed with comfort at this very difficult time.*

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**Mary Alice Corman** - February 01, 2019 at 06:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mildred M. Gerdes Bliefernich.*



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February 01, 2019 at 03:41 PM

CG

“ *Mildred's Dear Family,  
We are so saddened by Mildred's death but know that she has now met Jesus! She loved each one of you so dearly and recognized that you were all special gifts in her life.*

*We have numerous sweet memories of she and Uncle Mervin-they always made the effort to connect with us through the years in so many ways. Mildred was kind, interested and inclusive to all she met, on a multitude of levels, in her busy and productive life.*

*Our love and prayers are with you all, as you say good-by to a very special person in your lives. May The Lord shower you with His love, mercy and grace at this time.*

*Vernon and Carin*

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**Carin Gerdes** - February 01, 2019 at 10:42 AM



“ Prayers for your family as you grieve the loss of Mildred. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

*Mike and Barb Wing and family*

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**Barbara Linn Wing** - February 01, 2019 at 08:43 AM

SK

“ Dear Mildred will be missed. She & Bernie welcomed my husband Lynn & me to First Lutheran when I began to serve there as Transition Pastor four years ago.  
On the first Sunday we compared our love of shoes! She always dressed so beautifully. But more than that, she was beautiful in her way of sharing her love of Christ & joy in life in so many ways.  
Peace to her memory, Sylvia High Karlsson

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**Sylvia Karlsson** - January 31, 2019 at 04:58 PM



“ Cherished Memories was purchased for the family of Mildred M. Gerdes Bliefernich.



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January 31, 2019 at 12:31 PM

CM

“ Mildred was a wonderful person! She taught all three of our children first and second grade in Davenport! We all loved her dearly! She was one classy lady! She will be missed by everyone that knew her. She touched many lives! My deepest sympathy goes out to all of her family! 🥹🙏  
Christy Madsen

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**Christy Madsen** - January 29, 2019 at 09:15 PM